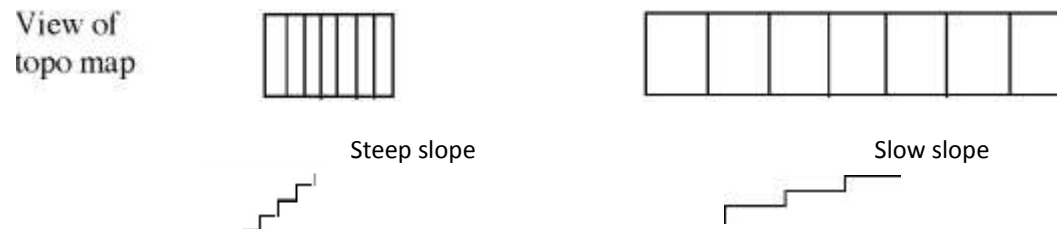


**How is a change in elevation shown on the topographic maps?** A topographic map is drawn from a bird's eye view – from above the land. Think of the lines on the map (called contour lines) as steps. When the lines are close together the elevation of the land is changing rapidly in a short distance. Both of these slopes rise the same distance, but the one on the right changes more gradually.



Imagine a building with two stories. The illustration showing the steep slope is like getting to second floor of that building with a ladder: a steep climb in a short distance. In contrast, when the lines are farther apart, the elevation of the land is changing more gradually over a longer distance. It is more like taking a ramp to the second floor of the building. Look at the picture below:



Which of these would be easier to climb? Why?

Your teacher will show you a map of the Aleutian Islands. Answer the following questions:

- According to this map, where might you have a difficult time climbing?
- According to this map, where on this map might you have an easy time climbing?
- How did you determine the answer to these two questions?